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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 SP-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W
---------- 086420
R 171238Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9339
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0489
IQ.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BU
SUBJECT: "ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE" SOLOMON BEN-YSEF

REF: A. STATE 53038; B) SOFIA 2313,/1974

1. FRG EMBASSY CONFIRMS THAT FINE OF "ONE-HALF HIS POSSESSIONS" PLUS 2,000 LEV WAS LEVIED AGAINST BEN-YUSEF BUT HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECT, INCLUDING PRESENT OR PREVIOUS STATE OF HIS HEALTH, OR STATUS OF HIS WIFE. FRG EMBASSY HAS NO INTENTION RAISING SUBJECT OF BEN-YUSEF WITH GOB AS HE IS NOT A FRG CITIZEN AND ADVOCACY OF HIS CAUSE WOULD CONFUSE AND DETRACT FROM EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF JACOBY WHO IS FRG RESPONSIBILITY.

2. INCIDENTALLY, JACOBY CASE WAS DISCUSSED DURING FONMIN MLADENOV VISIT TO BONN (SOFIA 431, USNATO 1394) AND BULGARIANS HAVE AGREED TO PARDON JACOBY, BUT NOT TO WAIVE FINE OF ONE HALF HIS POSSESSIONS WHICH BULGARIANS PLACE AT ONE MILLION MARKS. JACOBY REMAINS IN JAIL AND IS NOW FACED WITH ANOTHER TRIAL, ACCUSED OF BEING ACCOMPLICE IN SOME TYPE OF CONSPIRACY OR DISORDER IN JAIL. FRG EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HAD ACCESS TO HIM SINCE DECEMBER.

3. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT GERMANS, WHO ARE TO SOME EXTENT INVOLVED, ARE TAKING NO ACTION ON BEN-YUSEF, AND ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT WE HAVE DRAWN DOWN OUR CAPITAL ALREADY
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TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT IN RAISING QUESTION OF SHPETER

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FAMILY (REF.B), AND NEED TO PRESERVE CAPITAL FOR USE IN ANY CASE THAT MAY ARISE INVOLVING AN AMERICAN OR AT LEAST SOME AMERICAN CONNECTION, WE ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO MAKE AN APPROACH IN THE BEN-YUSEF CASE. WHILE THE HUMANITARIAN BASIS FOR SUCH APPEAL WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY US, THE BULGARIANS WOULD CONSIDER ACTION BY US AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THEIR REACTION WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT NOT HELP BEN-YUSEF. WE WOULD REVISE THIS ASSESSMENT IF OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE WILLING TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THIS CASE.

4. SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE REPRESENTS ISRAELI INTERESTS. WE PROPOSE TO RAISE MATTER WITH SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO FIND IF HE HAS INFORMATION ON SUBJECT AND WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A DEMARCHE.

5. STATE IS REQUESTED TO REPEAT REFTEL TO EMBASSIES TEL AVIV AND STOCKHOLM.
HERZ

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